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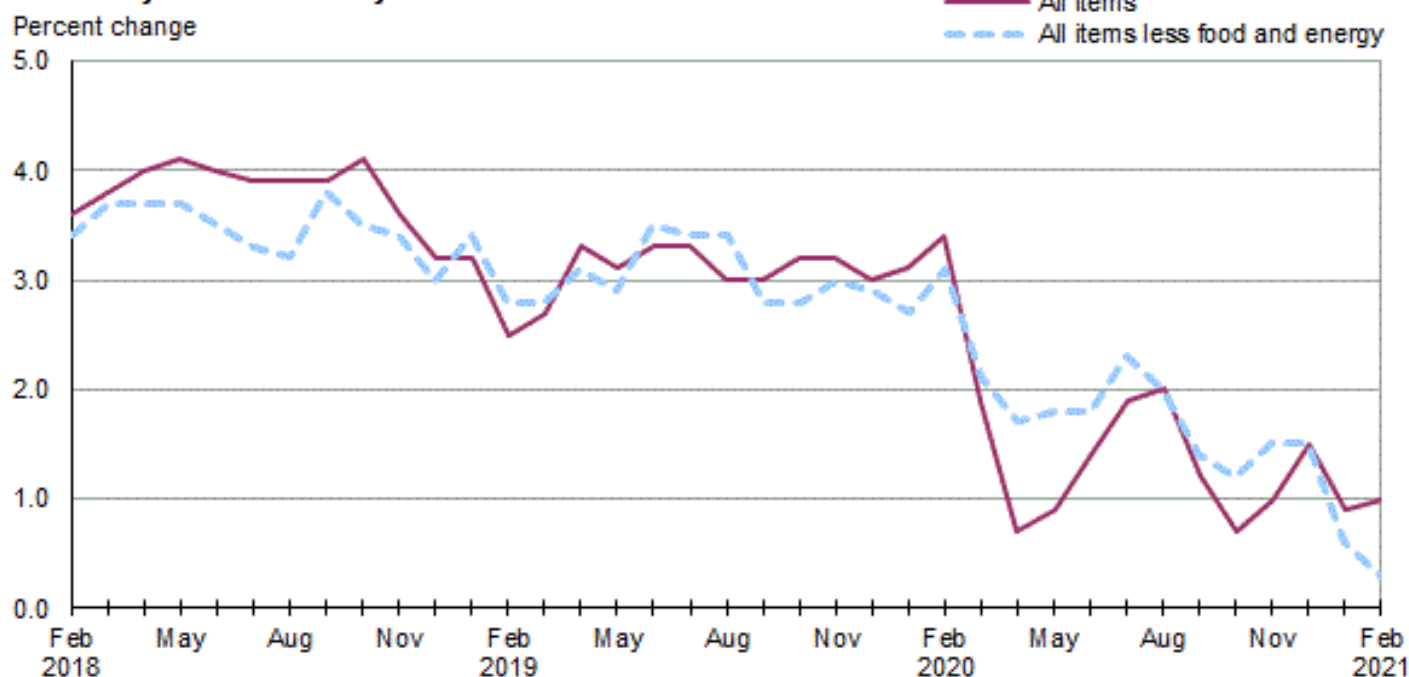
Consumer Price Index, Los Angeles area – February 2021

Area prices were up 0.4 percent over the past month, up 1.0 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Los Angeles area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.4 percent in February, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the February increase was influenced by higher prices for gasoline and shelter. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U rose 1.0 percent. This marks the twelfth consecutive month of price increases of 2.0 percent or less. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Food prices rose 3.5 percent. Energy prices increased 3.9 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of electricity. The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.3 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA, February 2018–February 2021



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices increased 0.4 percent for the month of February. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home rose 1.4 percent, influenced by higher prices for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs (3.1 percent). Prices for food away from home decreased 0.4 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 3.5 percent. Prices for food at home rose 3.9 percent since a year ago, led by higher prices for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs (6.9 percent), and prices for food away from home advanced 3.1 percent.

Energy

The energy index rose 5.6 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (7.0 percent). Prices for electricity advanced 5.6 percent, but prices for natural gas service decreased 2.1 percent for the same period.

Energy prices increased 3.9 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for electricity (13.3 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service jumped 10.1 percent, while prices for gasoline declined 1.1 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged in February. Higher prices for new vehicles (2.1 percent), other goods and services (0.9 percent), and shelter (0.2 percent) helped counter lower prices for household furnishings and operations (-0.8 percent) and medical care (-0.4 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 0.3 percent. Components contributing to the increase included alcoholic beverages (11.3 percent), other goods and services (4.5 percent), and shelter (0.9 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price decreases in apparel (-6.4 percent) and recreation (-5.9 percent).

Table A. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA, CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.9	2.1	0.8	3.5	0.7	3.2	0.8	3.1	0.2	0.9
February.....	0.6	2.7	0.7	3.6	0.1	2.5	0.3	3.4	0.4	1.0
March.....	0.3	2.7	0.4	3.8	0.6	2.7	-0.7	1.9		
April.....	0.2	2.7	0.4	4.0	1.0	3.3	-0.3	0.7		
May.....	0.3	2.5	0.4	4.1	0.2	3.1	0.4	0.9		
June.....	-0.2	2.2	-0.2	4.0	0.0	3.3	0.5	1.4		
July.....	0.3	2.5	0.2	3.9	0.1	3.3	0.6	1.9		
August.....	0.3	2.8	0.2	3.9	0.0	3.0	0.1	2.0		
September.....	0.4	3.1	0.5	3.9	0.5	3.0	-0.3	1.2		
October.....	0.4	3.1	0.5	4.1	0.7	3.2	0.2	0.7		
November.....	0.1	3.6	-0.3	3.6	-0.3	3.2	0.1	1.0		
December.....	0.0	3.6	-0.3	3.2	-0.6	3.0	-0.2	1.5		

The March 2021 Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles area is scheduled to be released on April 13, 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on February 2021 Consumer Price Index Data

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in February was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed.

While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at <https://www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm>.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA metropolitan area includes Los Angeles and Orange Counties in California.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Feb. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021
Expenditure category						
All items	279.560	280.178	281.347	1.0	0.6	0.4
All items (1967=100)	825.943	827.771	831.223	-	-	-
Food and beverages	281.658	282.411	283.522	4.0	0.7	0.4
Food	281.552	282.453	283.715	3.5	0.8	0.4
Food at home	265.017	265.426	269.217	3.9	1.6	1.4
Cereals and bakery products	277.127	274.140	277.500	0.4	0.1	1.2
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	294.757	290.529	299.450	6.9	1.6	3.1
Dairy and related products	257.360	263.911	261.590	2.9	1.6	-0.9
Fruits and vegetables	359.525	364.430	363.625	3.2	1.1	-0.2
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	267.137	270.014	275.704	5.7	3.2	2.1
Other food at home	199.659	199.499	203.485	3.0	1.9	2.0
Food away from home	294.816	296.186	294.972	3.1	0.1	-0.4
Alcoholic beverages	262.588	261.550	260.811	11.3	-0.7	-0.3
Housing	324.149	324.947	326.053	1.5	0.6	0.3
Shelter	374.059	374.862	375.778	0.9	0.5	0.2
Rent of primary residence(2)	399.271	399.228	401.167	1.2	0.5	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3)	391.045	391.601	392.372	1.4	0.3	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)	391.023	391.579	392.349	1.4	0.3	0.2
Fuels and utilities	359.099	363.244	372.538	10.9	3.7	2.6
Household energy	312.367	314.114	325.529	12.5	4.2	3.6
Energy services(2)	310.964	312.707	324.104	12.5	4.2	3.6
Electricity(2)	361.082	360.746	381.106	13.3	5.5	5.6
Utility (piped) gas service(2)	249.775	256.013	250.556	10.1	0.3	-2.1
Household furnishings and operations	118.717	118.378	117.480	-0.8	-1.0	-0.8
Apparel	104.579	107.232	107.305	-6.4	2.6	0.1
Transportation	206.284	208.813	211.493	-1.6	2.5	1.3
Private transportation	205.099	208.134	213.448	0.9	4.1	2.6
New and used motor vehicles(4)	92.134	91.787	92.547	1.1	0.4	0.8
New vehicles(1)	171.936	168.749	172.218	0.2	0.2	2.1
Used cars and trucks(1)	287.062	284.903	286.569	8.8	-0.2	0.6
Motor fuel	240.660	252.791	270.418	-1.1	12.4	7.0
Gasoline (all types)	235.018	246.904	264.161	-1.1	12.4	7.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)	234.021	246.180	263.769	-1.1	12.7	7.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)	228.316	238.894	255.014	-1.3	11.7	6.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)	230.072	240.606	256.056	-0.2	11.3	6.4
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	788.183	802.689	802.689	2.1	1.8	0.0
Medical care	506.219	509.547	507.285	1.6	0.2	-0.4
Recreation(6)	105.869	102.102	102.330	-5.9	-3.3	0.2
Education and communication(6)	151.838	149.515	149.850	0.6	-1.3	0.2
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) ..	1,963.558	1,910.404	1,910.404	-2.6	-2.7	0.0
Other goods and services	454.213	462.877	466.852	4.5	2.8	0.9
Commodity and service group						
All items	279.560	280.178	281.347	1.0	0.6	0.4
Commodities	184.677	186.017	187.956	1.5	1.8	1.0
Commodities less food & beverages	135.296	136.865	139.124	-0.8	2.8	1.7
Nondurables less food & beverages	178.861	184.195	188.403	-2.1	5.3	2.3
Durables	92.245	90.772	91.359	1.4	-1.0	0.6
Services	364.052	363.933	364.297	0.7	0.1	0.1

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Feb. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	269.726	270.245	271.527	0.9	0.7	0.5
All items less shelter.....	237.923	238.459	239.730	1.0	0.8	0.5
Commodities less food	140.691	142.180	144.350	-0.1	2.6	1.5
Nondurables	231.437	234.499	237.175	1.5	2.5	1.1
Nondurables less food.....	186.814	191.729	195.613	-1.0	4.7	2.0
Services less rent of shelter(3).....	359.424	357.969	357.544	0.4	-0.5	-0.1
Services less medical care services.....	350.789	350.343	350.902	0.6	0.0	0.2
Energy	267.915	276.433	291.972	3.9	9.0	5.6
All items less energy	282.559	282.653	282.868	0.8	0.1	0.1
All items less food and energy	282.907	282.846	282.860	0.3	0.0	0.0

Footnotes

(1) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.

(2) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(3) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(6) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.